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CLAIMS

1. A refrigeration device comprising a thermally insulating housing (1) enclosing an inner chamber (2) and an evaporator (7) arranged in an air passage (4, 5) communicating with said inner chamber (2), a heating device (8) for heating said evaporator (7) and a control circuit (10) for controlling the operation of said heating device (8), characterised in that said control circuit (10) is connected to a measuring device (12, 13; 14, 15; 17, 18; 20, 23; 24, 25) arranged in said air passage (4, 5) in order to provide a measured signal representative of the air flow through said air passage (4, 5) and is embodied such as to bring said heating device (8) into operation when the recorded air flow falls below a threshold value.
2. The refrigeration device according to claim 1, characterised in that said measuring device (12, 13) comprises a body (12) driven to move by the air flow in said passage and a sensor (13) to record the movement and that said control circuit (10) determines a fall below the threshold value when the recorded motion speed falls below a threshold value.
3. The refrigeration device according to claim 1, characterised in that said measuring device comprises an elastic element (14) which can be deflected from a rest position by the air flow in said passage (4, 5) and a sensor (15) to record the deflection of said element (14) and that said control circuit (10) determines a fall below the threshold value when the recorded deflection falls below a threshold value.

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4. The refrigeration device according to claim 1, characterised in that said measuring device comprises a pressure sensor (18) to measure a dynamic air pressure in said passage (4, 5) and that said control circuit (10) determines a fall below the threshold value when the recorded pressure rises above a threshold value.
5. The refrigeration device according to claim 1, characterised in that said measuring device comprises two temperature sensors (20, 21; 24, 25) which are thermally differently closely coupled to a heat source (20) or sink (7) or to the air in said passage (4, 5) and that said control circuit (10) determines a fall below the threshold value when the difference between the temperatures recorded by the two sensors exceeds a threshold value.
6. The refrigeration device according to claim 5, characterised in that said heat sink is said evaporator (7).
7. The refrigeration device according to claim 6, characterised in that a first one of said temperature sensors (25) is arranged directly on said evaporator (7).
8. The refrigeration device according to claim 7, characterised in that said first temperature sensor (25) is arranged on an area of said evaporator (7) which is capable of icing up.
9. The refrigeration device according to claim 6, 7 or 8, characterised in that a second one of said temperature

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sensors (24) is arranged on an output (4) of said passage (4, 5).

10. A method for controlling the defrosting of an evaporator in a refrigeration device, comprising the following steps:

- estimating an air flow through a passage (4, 5) in which said evaporator (7) is arranged; and
- triggering a defrosting process when the estimated air flow falls below a threshold value.